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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/606,472	BOYL-DAVIS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael W. Talbot	3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 20 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-14,16-22,24-29 and 31-42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>06/27/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Dale C. Barr on Tuesday, 27 June 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims:

(1) Claim 13, line 13, the following phrases were added to the end of amended claim 13 as shown in Applicant's response dated 20 June 2006:

--, wherein the opposing-force support assembly includes:

a first member moveably coupled to the carriage and moveable along a first axis;

a first actuator coupled to the first member and to the carriage and configured to move the first member along the first axis;

a second member moveably coupled to the first member and moveable along a second axis orthogonally oriented with respect to the first axis;

a second actuator coupled to the second member and to the first member and configured to move the second member along the second axis; and

a securing device coupled to the second member and configured to be secured to the workpiece--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1,2,4-14,16-22,24-29 and 31-42 are allowed.

Claims 1,5,13,17,27,36 and 40 are the independent claims.

Regarding claims 1,5,13,17,27,36 and 40, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious an opposing-force support assembly comprising a first member coupled to the carriage and moveable along a first axis, a first actuator coupled to the first member and to the carriage to move the first member along the first axis, a second member coupled to the first member and moveable along a second axis orthogonal with respect to the first axis, a second actuator coupled to the second member and to the first member to move the second member along the second axis, and a securing device coupled to the second member, solely or in combination, with a track assembly adapted to be attached to a workpiece and a carriage moveably couple to the track assembly including a tool support for supporting a manufacturing tool thereon.

Adams '436 is the closest art of record.

Adams '436 shows in Figures 1-5b an apparatus comprising a track assembly (11) adapted to the workpiece (12,14) via fasteners (28) and mounting steps (25) and vacuum pads (29), a carriage (15) including a tool support (62 in Fig. 17) adapted to receive a manufacturing drill tool (17) moveably (col. 3, lines 20-27) coupled to the track assembly and moveable relative to the translational axis (x-axis) and an opposing-force support assembly (22) coupled to the carriage and adapted to be secured to the workpiece to at least partially counterbalance a manufacturing force exerted on the workpiece by the manufacturing tool (col. 3, lines 20-37). Adams '436 shows the opposing-force support assembly including a clamp-up pin (23) adapted to engage a hole (13) in the workpiece and a clamp-up actuator (102) adapted to actuate the clamp-up pin into secure engagement with the workpiece. Adams '436 shows the track assembly including one rail (11) and the carriage is rollably (34,35) coupled to the rail (col. 3, line 71 through col. 4, line 9) in the translation direction (x-axis) and along the y-axis through slot

Art Unit: 3722

(at 59,128). Adams '436 shows the carriage including a drive assembly (144,145,147) having a drive motor (144) operatively engaging the track and adapted to drive the carriage along the track (col. 7, line 73 through col. 8, line 38).

Adams '436 still lacks the opposing-force support assembly (22) comprising a second member coupled to the first member (94) and moveable along a second axis orthogonal with respect to the first axis (x-axis), a second actuator coupled to the second member and to the first member to move the second member along the second axis, and a securing device coupled to the second member. There is no motivation to modify Adams '436 to include the missing features since these specific features and functional relationships would result only from the knowledge gained from Applicant's disclosure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

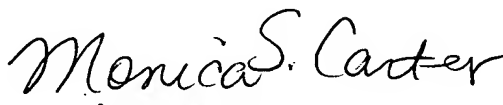
3. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Talbot, whose telephone number is 571-272-4481. The examiner's office hours are typically 8:30am until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Monica S. Carter, may be reached at 571-272-4475.

Art Unit: 3722

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at FAX number 571-273-8300. This practice may be used for filling papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers, which require a fee, by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Michael W. Talbot of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.



MWT
Examiner
27 June 2006



MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER